



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DIVISION, GREAT LAKES AND OHIO RIVER**  
**CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**P.O. BOX 1159**  
**CINCINNATI, OHIO 45201-1159**

CELRD-PDS-P

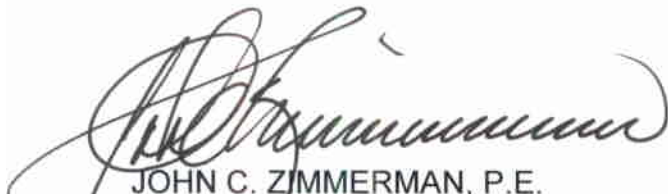
8 January 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Buffalo District

SUBJECT: Major Subordinate Command (MSC) Approval of the Peer Review Plan for Buffalo River, New York, Section 312 Environmental Dredging Feasibility Study

1. The Peer Review Plan for the Buffalo River, New York, Section 312 Environmental Dredging Feasibility Study (attachment 1) has been presented to the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division for approval in accordance with memorandum from Major General Don T. Riley, Director of Civil Works, and subject titled "Peer Review Process" dated 30 March 2007.
2. The Buffalo River system is comprised of the main branch of the Buffalo River in addition to the City Ship Canal. The Buffalo River extends 6.2 river miles to Lake Erie, while the City Ship Canal extends 1.4 river miles before joining the Buffalo River just upstream from its terminus. There are three major streams in the watershed that create the AOC "source area": Cayuga Creek, Buffalo Creek and Cazenovia Creek. Land use in the tributary watersheds primarily consists of residential communities, farmland, wooded areas and parks interspersed with commercial land use. The total drainage area for the Buffalo River watershed is approximately 440 square miles. The purpose of the Buffalo River Environmental Dredging Feasibility Study is to investigate and recommend remediation alternatives, including dredging and disposal of the contaminated sediments in the Buffalo River. Estimated implementation costs have not yet been developed for potential remediation alternatives. The study is being conducted under Section 312 of the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) 1990, as amended, which provides authority for the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to participate in the removal of contaminated sediments (a) outside of the boundaries of and adjacent to Federal navigation projects as part of operations and maintenance, and (b) for the purposes of ecosystem restoration, not related to operations and maintenance of navigation channels.
3. The purpose of a peer review plan is to assign the appropriate level and review independence, establish the procedures, and assign responsibilities for conducting the Independent Technical Review (ITR) and External Peer Review (EPR). This peer review plan is compliant with the requirements of the Corps Peer Review Process, which is documented in EC1105-2-408, dated 31 May 2005, and has been recommended by the National Ecosystem Planning Center of Expertise (ECO-PCX). Recommendations and approval from the ECO-PCX are provided as attachment 2.

4. Policy compliance and quality management verification for the Buffalo River, New York, Section 312 Environmental Dredging Peer Review Plan have been completed. Division staff has confirmed the Peer Review Plan has been formulated in accordance with current policy and concurs with the recommendations by the ECO-PCX for an integrated review process including independent technical review (ITR) because and an External Peer Review (EPR) because the implementation costs are above \$45 million.
5. The District is requested to post the Peer Review Plan to its web site and provide a link to the ECO-PCX for their use. Prior to posting, the names of individuals in the PRP should be removed.
6. The Peer Review Plan for the Buffalo River, New York, Section 312 Environmental Dredging Feasibility Study is approved by the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, Chief of Planning and Policy Division. Point of Contact for this effort is Dr. Hank Jarboe (513) 684-6050 (CELRD-PDS-P).



JOHN C. ZIMMERMAN, P.E.  
Acting Chief, Planning and Policy Division  
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division

cf: CECW-LRD (Lang)  
CELRD-PD (White)  
CELRD-PDS-GL (Hempfling)